

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 5, 2008 (hereinafter, "Office Action") has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments considered. Claims 12-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 12 and 13 are amended, support for which can be found in the original application at, for example, paragraph [0028], FIG. 3. Applicants submit that no new matter or issues have been introduced.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,077,597 to Davies (hereinafter, "Davies"). Claims 1-11 are canceled by this amendment, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claims 1, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,379,197 to Hayes (hereinafter "Hayes"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 12 and 13 are amended herein to recite, *inter alia*, "at least one of a proximal portion and distal portion of the body forming an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the catheter." Hayes does not show or describe at least this feature and therefore does not anticipate either of independent claims 12 or 13. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Davies as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,047,121 to Jung. Claims 3, 6, and 7 are canceled by this amendment, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Davies as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,047,121 to Kochar. Claim 9 is canceled by this amendment, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claims 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,382,568 to Snell (hereinafter "Snell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,452 to Melinyshyn et al. (hereinafter "Melinyshyn"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the asserted combination, Applicants respectfully submit that at least the claimed feature in independent claims 12 and 13 of "at least one of a proximal portion and distal portion of the body forming an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the catheter" is not shown or described thereby. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established at least because all of the claimed limitations are not taught or suggested by the relied upon art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 12-18 are patentable over the combination of Snell and Melinyshyn and respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 480062002500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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